

SOUTH CADBURY & SUTTON MONTIS PARISH COUNCIL
***Draft* MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF SOUTH**
CADBURY & SUTTON MONTIS PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT SUTTON
MONTIS VILLAGE HALL

Thursday 23rd November 2023 at 19:30hrs

Present - Councillors David Soper (Chairman) Mike Toop (Vice Chairman) Liz Tabor
Mike Semmons Peter Cook John Griffiths
Cherry Toop (Parish Clerk)
David Lilley (Queen Camel Parish Council Flood Committee) Nicola Clark Somerset Councillor

The Chairman opened the meeting and advised it is being recorded

PC 2023/112 Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr Henry Hobhouse and Cllr Sarah Dyke

PC 2023/113 Declarations of interest

No interests to declare

PC 2023/114 the minutes of the Extraordinary General meeting held on Thursday 19th October 2023 were **APPROVED** and signed as a correct record by the Chairman

PC 2023/115 Casual Vacancy no applications have been received for the Casual Vacancy. It continues to be advertised on the website and has also been published in the South Cabury Village Hall newsletter

PC 2023/116 Clerk's report

Finger post refurbishment- it was **RESOLVED** to defer this until the new year. The Clerk will email photos of the finger posts to Cllr Cook

PC 2023/117 Open session

Agenda item PC 2023/118 -2 was brought forward to allow Martin Lilley to speak about the proposed River Cam Flood Warning Group. A better communication alert system is needed to improve and increase communication as there is currently no chain in place to cascade flood information through the villages. Queen Camel uses a What's App group to alert residents of potential flooding which is very effective. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Toop and Cllr Tabor will be representatives for the parish council on the flood warning group. A solar powered river monitor is being trialled in Blackford in conjunction with the Environment Agency, with plans to have further monitors installed in other villages affected by flooding. Attenuation ponds are needed to slow the flow of flood water and 3 have been incorporated along the A303 with the dualling works. The parish council needs to have a flood plan and the Clerk will add this for a future agenda item. Government schemes are available to enable people to have insurance and ways to mitigate the risk of flooding

PC 2023/118 Somerset Council Councillor report

1. Cllr Clark reported Somerset Council has declared a financial emergency due to predicted budget deficit of £100 million. Social Care reform plans were dropped leaving local authorities to shoulder the costs. Commissioners from central government will be appointed to manage the Council's finances if a Section 114 notice is issued. Somerset Council is working to mitigate a position where only statutory services are provided. Parish councils are being asked to consider services they could take on or assets that could be purchased and to let Cllr Clark know of discretionary services that cannot be stopped. She reminded that members of the public are welcome to attend Somerset Council meetings.

Sutton Farm update – Cllr Clark suggested consideration is given to raising this with Cllr Sarah Dyke as MP and to report further enforcement breach regarding no permission for change of use from agricultural. Cllr Cook reported Somerset Council has not effectively responded to the report emailed from the residents group. An appointment has been arranged for January but suggested an extension is requested

PC 2023/119 Police update

Monthly report previously circulated with only 1 crime being reported

PC 2023/120 Local Community Network

Minutes from October meeting previously circulated with agenda for next meeting on 6th December 2023 in Wincanton. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will attend but noted she is unable to vote if required

PC 2023/121 Planning Updates and Applications

1. No new planning applications received to consider
2. 23/02206/HOU Proposed Kitchen alterations and extension and replacement of conservatory with an Orangery Church Cottage Church Hill Sutton Montis Yeovil Somerset BA22 7HE **Application permitted with conditions**

23/02381/ADV Proposed Display of 4 no. non-illuminated free standing signs Teals Farm Shop 1 Orchard Lane South Cadbury Yeovil Somerset BA22 7FS Application validated. **Application permitted with conditions**

It was queried if the parish council is consulted on applications in other parishes that it may have an interest in. The Clerk confirmed they should be but will contact local parish council clerks to request this

PC 2023/122 Village Hall Committees

1. South Cadbury – Cllr Semmons reported that the committee has chosen the new play equipment and has a meeting tonight to discuss final costings and consider what equipment can be purchased by the parish council to enable VAT to be reclaimed

Gridserve, a sustainable energy company is inviting residents to swap their car for an electric vehicle for one week as part of a social experiment. Further details available from village hall on 06/12/2023 at 6.45 pm

2. Sutton Montis

Martin Coombs enquired when the village hall will receive its grant from the parish council. The Clerk confirmed cheques can now be issued as bank account has been reactivated

PC2023/123 Village name plate and 20 mph speed restriction

The outcome of responses was:

	YES	NO	NO OPINION
Village nameplates	24	17	12
20 mph speed restriction	28	30	1

It was noted that not all responses reflected an opinion on both matters

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will enquire with Somerset Council regarding the cost of a nameplate for Sutton Montis for further consideration at a future meeting. Cllr Clark will request a breakdown of the £15000 estimate to explain the costs involved. The 20 mph speed restriction was **CONSIDERED** however as opinion remains clearly divided the matter will not be pursued as the marginal majority of responses received are not in favour. The Clerk will reply to responses received by email and post the outcome on the website and noticeboards

PC 2023/124 Highways and Rights of Way

1. Footpath numbers have now been provided to the Clerk who will report to the Rights of Way officer to investigate if boundaries have been changed
2. Further potholes have been noted in both villages which the Clerk will report
3. White lines have eroded and need repainting. Cllr Clark will progress this request with Somerset Council
4. Poor visibility for road users from both directions was raised by the triangle where the Sutton Road joins Queen Camel. Cllr Clark will raise this with Somerset Council

PC 2023/125 Budget setting

The draft budget (circulated) and proposed precept for 2024-2025 was discussed. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk's hours are not realistic as evidenced by timesheets and should be increased from 3 to 6 hours per week. A new contract of employment for the Clerk will be discussed in January 2024. It was **NOTED** that this will have an impact on the precept which has not been raised since 2019. The budget will be finalised and approved in January 2024 and the precept set accordingly taking into account services devolved from Somerset Council

PC 2023/126 grants

The following grants were **APPROVED**

1. South Cadbury Village Hall Committee £200 (includes £100 from last year for Queen's Jubilee)

2. Sutton Montis Village Hall Committee £200 (includes £100 from last year for Queen's Jubilee)
3. Citizens Advice £200
4. CAT bus Ring and Ride £100
5. Grass cutting maintenance for South Cadbury Playing Field £600
6. Somerset & Dorset Air Ambulance £100

An application from the Somerset Bus Partnership was **CONSIDERED** but refused as the bus service in the area is very limited and would not benefit the majority of parishioners. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will prepare cheques for the Chairman to sign, and send with an receipt acknowledgement for audit purposes

PC 2023/127 Devolution of Somerset Council Assets and Services

Provision for discretionary services that may be withdrawn by Somerset Council was **DISCUSSED**. The Clerk will send Cllr Clark a list of services likely to have an impact due to the financial burden this will cause given the current modest precept which will need to be significantly increased.

It was raised that Fire stations are not always available to respond to incidents due to manning deficiencies leaving large areas without fire cover. Cllr Clark will be asked to raise this as a concern

PC 2023/128 SALC

It was **RESOLVED** the Clerk will send a response to SALC letter received

PC 2023/129 Climate and Ecology Bill

DEFERRED to next meeting

PC 2023/130 Community Review Project

DEFERRED to next meeting

PC 2023/131 Financial matters

1. The cash book was reconciled with bank statements and signed by the Clerk and the Chairman. The bank balance as at 31/10/2023 was £29825.05 with £50 petty cash to be paid in. Monthly account charges are £5
2. It was **RESOLVED** to register for online banking and add Cllr Cook as a signatory
3. The following payments were **APPROVED**
 1. New cheque to be issued to Sally Palmer £100 for Annual audit of accounts
 2. SALC invoice 2879 £35 Transparency Code training
 3. SALC invoice 2846 £12.50 Recruiting and Retaining Councillors

The statement of reimbursements owed the to Clerk of £3428.98 was **APPROVED** and signed by the Chairman

It was **RESOLVED** that WesternWeb Ltd invoice number 23868 be corrected to £86.40 as the previous minute reference 2023/63 did not include the VAT
4. The Clerk timesheets for September and October 2023 were **APPROVED** and signed by the Chairman
5. It was **RESOLVED** to implement the National Salary Pay Scales for 2023/2024 and approve back payment of clerk salary from 01/04/2023 including holiday pay

6. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint a payroll provider to complete payroll for the Clerk since employment started and produce payslips for salary to be paid

PC 2023/132 Correspondence to be noted

1. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will contact the householder of Lower Camelot, South Cadbury regarding the complaint received that the highway is obstructed by overhanging bushes and shrubs from the property causing safety concerns to try and resolve the problem informally

PC 2023/133 Agenda items for next meeting

Climate and Ecology Bill
Community Review Project
Village nameplate update
Clerk Contract of Employment
Approve budget
Set precept for 2024/2025

PC 2023/104 Date of next meeting 18th January 2024

Meeting closed 9.55 pm

Signed Date

Minutes prepared by Cherry Toop (Parish Clerk)
24th November 2023
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